month of January, 1986; if so, what are the names of the members of the delegation; and

(b) what was the object of their visit and what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does no arise.

Acceptance of huge commissions by army officers

910. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether involvement of some army officers, retired and serving, in the acceptance of huge commission in the purchases of defence equipment from abroad has recently come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the nature of defence purchases, the amount involved and the action taken by Government against the officials found involved in the deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) This Ministry has no information.

(b) Does not arise.

Cases relating to evasion of customs duties

911. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the cases which came to light during 1985 involving huge amounts of evasion of customs duties;

(b) what is the estimated loss of revenue to the Exchequer on account of those cases;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up a separate body to deal expeditiously with the customs cases; and

(d) if so, what are the details of its constitution and by when it will come into existence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up a Tribunal under Article 323B of the Constitution for more expeditious settlement of Customs and Central Excise matters, including valuation disputes. The details of its constitution and the date from which it will come into existence are yet to be finalised.

Shortage of small coins

912. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government in recent weeks to ease the shortage of small coins; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken/propose to take the following steps:—

(1) The existing Mints are being worked to their full capacity by increasing the number of working hours in all the three mints coupled with the operation of an incentive scheme for obtaining higher production.

(2) As part of the modernisation of the Mints and with a view to increasing production capacity of the Mints, 22 new Coining Presses have been installed, partly as replacement and partly as additions. Orders for 14 more coining presses are being placed on H.M.T.

(3) In order to supplement the supply from the three Mints, coins in the denominations of Re. 1/-, 50P and 25P are being imported; between September, 1985 and 22-2-1986, 1137.02 million pieces of coins have been received from abroad and they are being distributed.

(4) A new Mint is being established at Noida, U.P. with a capacity for an annual production of 2000 million pieces of coins. This is expected to go into production in 1988-89.

(5) The nationalised banks have been advised to collect coins from RBI's Offices or from branches of State Bank of India having Currency Chests/Small Coin Depots and arrange for their distribution through their branches, if necessary, by opening special counters.

(6) All public sector banks have been advised to identify centres for establishment of Small Coin Depots Currency Chests where such Depots/Chests do not exist or where they exist, but are not adequate and approach RBI with their proposals.

(7) RBI have identified areas where coin shortage is felt and steps have been taken to supply coins to such areas.

(8) Arrangements have been made to disburse part of the salary, say Rs. 20 per month, in coins to each of the employees of the Central Government and public sector undertakings. State Governments and Union Territories have also been advised to disburse every month part of the salary to their staff in coins.

Creation of more non-resident circles

913. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create more Non-resident Circles in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Non-resident Circles at Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin and Ahmedabad have recently been created with effect from 15-1-1986 in addition to the already existing Non-resident Refund Circles at Bombay.

Kapoor Committee recommendations on export of engineering and capital goods

914. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the D. V. Kapoor Committee on export of engineering and capital goods;

(b) whether Government held any consultations with the engineering goods exporters on the basis of the recommendations; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take on these recommendations and what are the detailed guidelines for increasing the export of engineering goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The D.V. Kapoor Committee has assessed that given our natural resources and skilled manpower a good base exists for achieving substantial increase in the area of engineering exports. For this the Committee recommended a two pronged strategy, namely: